

State of Illinois
Department of Transportation
Division of Highways
Springfield

SPECIFICATIONS
FOR
WOOD LATH SNOW FENCE

Serial Number: M4-87

1. GENERAL. This specification covers wood lath snow fence used for snow drift prevention. It shall consist of wood lath woven between wire cables in the manner specified herein.
2. MATERIALS. The materials used shall meet the requirements of these specifications.

(a) Lath

The lath shall be made from sound, live, Southern yellow pine, Western red cedar, Douglas fir, cypress, hemlock, spruce, aspen or red wood. They shall be 3/8 inch in thickness, 1-1/2 inches in width, and 48 inches in length. They shall be straight, square-sawed, free from cross grain, worm holes or other defects which would impair their strength, and shall be as much as 1/2 inch short of the length specified. Wane, not to exceed 1/8 inch in depth, 1/4 inch wide on the face, and 6 inches in length, will be permitted on not more than 20% of the pieces. Knots shall be firm and sound and shall be limited to pin knots, 1/2 inch and less in diameter. Not more than three pin knots so scattered that no two will be closer than 6 inches apart will be permitted in any one piece. Pin worm holes, very small pitch pockets, and small surface checks and stains will not be considered objectionable.

(b) Preservative Coating

The lath shall be immersed in a solution of red oxide of iron preservative for a sufficient length of time to fill the pores of the wood. The wood shall be dry at the time of immersion. The solution shall contain not less than 1-1/2 pounds per gallon of red oxide of iron of approved quality and fineness. The pigment shall be held in suspension by agitating or otherwise when in use. After treatment, the material shall be protected from the weather until the preservative coating has become dry to touch.

(c) Wire

The wire shall be galvanized steel wire. The tensile strength of the wire shall not be less than 50,000 nor more than 72,000 pounds per square inch. The wire shall be No. 13 standard gauge.

(d) Protective Coating on Wire

The wire shall have a continuous coating of zinc of uniform thickness. The weight of the zinc coating shall be not less than 0.30 ounce per square foot of surface. The adherence of the coating shall be such that it will not crack nor flake during the fabrication of the fence.

3. FABRICATION. The lath shall be woven between five wire cables in such a manner that they will be securely held in place. Each cable shall consist of two strands of wire, and shall have two complete twists between the lath. The lath shall be spaced 2 - 2-1/4 inches apart. The fence shall be stretched after weaving and before being placed in rolls. The fence shall be fabricated in such a manner that neither the tensile strength of the wires nor the zinc coating will be injured.
4. TESTS. Tests will be made by the Department. All fence shall be tested and inspected for compliance with these specifications, and acceptance or rejection will be based on the results of such tests and inspection. At the option of the Department, inspection may be carried on at the manufacturer's plant during fabrication, or it may be inspected at the plant after fabrication, or after delivered, or it may be inspected both during fabrication and after delivery.

(a) Samples

All samples shall be furnished free of charge to the Department. If inspection is to be carried on at the plant during fabrication, samples of the wire shall be submitted sufficiently in advance of fabrication to permit complete tests. The lath may be inspected before being treated with preservative and also during fabrication.

The number of samples taken shall be optional with the Department.

(b) Rejection

Material not meeting the requirements of these specifications will be rejected. Peeling, scaling, or flaking of the zinc coating during fabrication; irregular spacing of the lath; or broken lath or wires will be sufficient cause for rejection.

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(b) Certification

The fabricator shall certify with test data that the product meets these specifications, the laths were immersed for a sufficient length of time, and the solution contained the specified amount of red oxide of iron.

5. SHIPPING. The fence shall be shipped in 50-foot rolls. Care shall be taken to prevent damage in handling.

Effective March 1, 1987

This specification supersedes Serial Number M4-81.
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